
**DEFENSE HEALTH BOARD
HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SUBCOMMITTEE
PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES MEETING MINUTES
Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, VA
December 14, 2016**

1. ATTENDEES

TITLE	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE/ORGANIZATION
DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER			
CAPT	Juliann	Althoff	Defense Health Board (DHB) Executive Director (Acting)/Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
BOARD/SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS			
Dr.	George	Anderson	<i>DHB Second Vice President/Chair, Health Care Delivery Subcommittee</i> Former Executive Director, The Society of Federal Health Professionals (AMSUS)
Dr.	Eve	Higginbotham*	Vice Dean, Perelman School of Medicine Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics Professor, Ophthalmology, University of Pennsylvania
Dr.	Russell	Luepker	Mayo Professor of Public Health, Professor of Medicine University of Minnesota
RADM (Ret)	Kathleen	Martin	Chief Executive Officer, Vinson Hall Corporation
Dr.	Joseph	Parisi	Professor and Consultant in Pathology Director, Neuropathology Fellowship, Division of Anatomic Pathology Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Dr.	Michael	Parkinson	Senior Medical Director, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health Plan and WorkPartners Principal, (Prevention, Performance, Productivity) P3 Health, LLC
Dr.	Richard	Salcido	William J. Erdman, II Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Pennsylvania
DHB STAFF			
Ms.	Katharine	Austin	DHB Analyst, Grant Thornton LLP
Ms.	Lisa	Austin	DHB Task Lead, Grant Thornton LLP
Ms.	Camille	Gaviola	DHB Deputy Director/Alternate DFO
Ms.	Reem	Ghoneim	DHB Analyst, Grant Thornton LLP
OTHER ATTENDEES			
Ms.	Rachel	Conley	Ombudsman, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
Ms.	Holly	Crowe	Health Scientist, Clinical Support Division, Operations Directorate
Ms.	Brooke	Goldberg	Deputy Director, Government Relations (Military Family Issues), Military Officers Association of America
Ms.	Theresa	Hart	Nurse Consultant, Project Manager for Perinatal, Pediatrics, and Special Medical Programs, Clinical Support Division, Operations Directorate
Ms.	Peggy	Haun	Military Special Needs Network
Mr.	Patrick	Johnson	Assistant Director, Department of Federal Affairs, American Academy of Pediatrics
Mr.	Christopher	Lopez	Office of the Secretary of Defense Health Affairs/Defense Health Agency
COL	Stephen	Phillips	Deputy Chief, Clinical Support Division, Operations Directorate

CAPT	Ed	Simmer	Deputy Director, TRICARE Health Plan
Ms.	Julia	Wenger	Contract Support Staff, Booz Allen Hamilton

*Participated via teleconference

2. OPEN SESSION

a. Administrative Remarks

Dr. Anderson and CAPT Althoff welcomed members of the public to the open session, and CAPT Althoff called the meeting to order. Dr. Anderson provided those in attendance a brief overview of the DHB and the specific task to the Subcommittee.

Action/POC: None.

b. Public Comments

The Subcommittee received seven sets of written comments prior to the meeting. Two members of the public shared oral commentary and were allowed three minutes for formal comments, followed by a question and answer session. Two additional public attendees also shared their comments during discussion with the Subcommittee after the formal commentary..

Mr. Patrick Johnson represented the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The AAP encouraged the Subcommittee to adopt their definition of medical necessity, which allows for pediatric care based on best practices and provider consensus within the field of pediatrics, which provides flexibility when established scientific evidence does not yet exist in peer-reviewed literature. The AAP noted that several civilian health care insurers adopted similar language in their plans, including Cigna, Anthem, and United Health Plan. In response to the AAP comments, the Subcommittee clarified that the AAP recommendation primarily serves to reduce confusion among beneficiaries, as opposed to broadly changing covered services. Members asked for the top five clinical examples of services or treatments that differ between the TRICARE plan and a commercial provider.

Additionally, members asked how the AAP established practice guidelines. The AAP representative explained that the AAP convenes committees and councils, which write policy statements over the course of a few years that serve as practice guidelines. Draft statements are passed through other AAP committees that have cross-jurisdiction and then pass through the committee on medical liability and committee on risk management, before being finalized through deliberation at the Executive Board. Members also asked for the AAP position on telemedicine. There could be a large positive potential impact for military families if care coordination included local case management supplemented by remote telemedicine diagnoses from pediatric specialists when appropriate.

Ms. Rachel Conley represented U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) families and shared her own personal TRICARE experiences, and those of other USCG families. She noted some families experienced wait times beyond TRICARE limits, had challenges in continuity of care, and did not have access to pediatric specialists based on the remote locations of some USCG stations. She and Ms. Peggy Haun expressed that while challenges in caring for children with rare diagnoses in

rural areas are not unique to the military families, the challenges are exacerbated by frequent relocations required by the military. Ms. Brooke Goldberg of the Military Officers Association echoed these sentiments in subsequent discussion. She noted that moving creates strain for military families; however, homesteading can create its own set of challenges as well, depending on location and availability of needed care.

Action/POC: Request documents from AAP/DHB Staff.

3. NEXT MEETING

The next Health Care Delivery Subcommittee meeting will be held at Defense Health Headquarters in Falls Church, VA, January 30-31, 2017.

4. CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing meeting minutes are accurate and complete.



Dr. George Anderson,
Chair, Health Care Delivery Subcommittee

1/30/2017

Date